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## David Gee of Cambridge recognized for business leadership

David Gee, president and chief executive officer of Havlik Technologies Inc. of Cambridge, has been named recipient of the Laurier Outstanding Business Leader Award for 1990.

The award is presented annually by the School of Business and Economics at Wilfrid Laurier University to a person who has demonstrated superior business leadership in the field of business management.

Gee received the award Wednesday at the school's annual awards luncheon, where 24 students were also presented with scholarships and awards.

Over the past five years, Gee and his management team have raised the levels of manufacturing safety, environmental controls and product technology at Havlik to some of the highest in the country.

Regarded as a leader in its industry, the company is a manufacturer of large, structural airplane and landing-gear components as well as ground-support equipment for the

aerospace, defence and precision-engineering industries.

The 42-year-old Toronto native completed a B.Sc. degree at the University of Toronto and, after receiving an M.B.A. in 1971, Gee took a position with General Foods in product management.

Later, he moved to the Toronto Dominion Bank, where he gained experience in specialized forms of lending with the bank's national accounts division. This period played a critical part in his overall education in the practical world of entrepreneurship.

In 1978, Gee left the banking industry for manufacturing. For the next seven years, he was associated with C & C Yachts Limited, a manufacturer of recreational and commercial sail and power vessels. First the general manager of a manufacturing division, Gee became vice-president of marketing, executive vice-president, and finally, president and chief executive officer of the St. Catharines company.

This was a challenging period in his career and one which gave him insights into the skilled trades and high-tech engineering processes with products such as wood and metal.

In his association with the Young Presidents Organization in Toronto, an opportunity presented itself when he met Dermot Coughlan, chairman of Derlan Industries Limited. Coughlan invited him to become a partner in a small Cambridge company whose owner was about to sell. Gee was intrigued by the opportunity because it would utilize all of his formal education and work experience as a manager and entrepreneur.

In 1985, he became president and chief executive officer of Havlik Technologies Inc., a manufacturer with four operating

divisions. Three of the divisions provide the aerospace industry with single-source accountability for a range of services from precision machining through heat treating, plating, painting, non-destructive testing and final assembly.

These same three divisions also manufacture a proprietary line of piping-system components engineered and marketed by Havlik's fourth division, Securamax International.

Gee is active at Forward Baptist Church in Cambridge, a past director of the United Way of St. Catharines, and still a member of the Young Presidents Organization. He also serves on several boards, including the Research Centre for the Management of New Technology (REMAT) at Laurier.

Gee is an avid sailor and, with his wife and two sons, has sailed in both Canada and Europe. The family is now building a cottage in Northern Ontario.

Previous recipients of the award include Hugh Sloan, Patrick Forde and Betty Sims.

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Gee can be reached at Havlik at 653-5774.